

# Introduction to Revelation

## Part 1

### Introduction

In Greek, the word Apocalypse means "reveal, remove the veil or walk the curtain." The book of Revelation was written in the last decade of the first century, near the reign of Emperor Domitian, written by the apostle John. This was the last of the apostles to survive in **exile**<sup>1</sup>, on a small island called Patmos located in the Aegean Sea southwest of Ephesus. Apocalypse is the most profound book in the Bible and the most difficult to understand, the least studied and the least understood. The churches had already begun at that time, to feel the effect of the persecutions and we see that a man had already been **martyred**<sup>2</sup>. (Revelations 2:13)

### The Manifestation of Christ

The book of Revelation has the revelation of Jesus Christ. We see the revelation and knowledge of Jesus Christ through the gospels and it shows it as the manifestation of God made flesh, the visible way in which God presented himself on Earth. The book of Revelations shows him glorified ministering in his church. The two aspects that we can notice about Jesus Christ are quite remarkable. Before Christ was glorified, he is presented as the lamb of God, the sacrifice he made on the cross of Calvary, like the **immolated**<sup>3</sup> lamb. Already in the book of Revelation we see him glorified, with all power, all glory and with all authority. We see that he is the faithful, true witness, the Alpha and the Omega, the Almighty, the one who was dead and is now alive, the Saint, the Beginning of God's creation, the lion of the tribe of Judah and finally as the Messiah who will reign forever as the King of kings and Lord of lords. We see the great difference that exists in seeing Him manifested in the flesh (Philippians 2:7) that he must be in everything like men, to come to be merciful and faithful **pontiff**<sup>4</sup> and to atone for the sins of the people (Hebrews 2). Christ in his human manifestation comes to take the form of a servant and through the sacrifice on the cross of Calvary to be able to obtain all power, all glory and all authority, to be able to really reign over the church already as the lamb that took away the sin of the world.

### Book for Peace and Not Fear

The book of Revelation is for us to learn to not be afraid of what is to come about the world. We should not be afraid because what is coming on planet earth is not planned for the church. God has not put us to anger but to achieve mercy and

salvation. What is written in this book is for all those who do not obey the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ. We have to learn to enter God's rest and learn to rest in it because the peace that God gives us, overbids all human capacity and goes a lot beyond our senses and our human capabilities. We learn to rest in Jesus because we have understood that God has the capacity that we humanly cannot achieve with our own strength and with our own abilities. It goes far beyond what we can see, understand, feel or look at. He who loves Jesus Christ has a safe rest, security, confidence and has the promise of Jesus Christ that he will one day fulfill the promise that he will take us out of this earth and transform this body of baseness so that it is a body similar to the body of his glory.

### The Revelation of Jesus Christ

We really see the entire purpose of Revelation in the first verse Revelation 1:1 "the revelation of Jesus Christ that God gave him". Here the revelation of Jesus Christ is precisely enclosed and when we have the revelation of Jesus Christ, when we know who He is, then it is when we realize that God does not want us to consult the astrologer, the **tarot**<sup>5</sup>, cards, or to look into any other sources of information that will tell us what will happen in the future. God manifested through the apostle and declared what really awaits man in the future. It's not a hidden secret, God has already revealed it to us. He knows the past, the present and the future. When he comes to Jesus Christ, he reveals and teaches us the past, the present and also the future. A wonderful future awaits the church of Jesus Christ, so when we come and understand the revelation of Jesus Christ we begin to really understand where we are going. When we find Jesus, we find the way and enter an environment of revelation and knowledge. Jesus Christ revealed to us, he said to us, "I am going to prepare a place for you." As children of God, it is a revelation that he gave us and it is something that we have to have well marked in our minds and in our hearts, so that we know that the church of Jesus Christ awaits a wonderful future. To say that it is a revelation of Jesus Christ means to discover or reveal. When he speaks of the revelation and knowledge of Jesus Christ, he means that we can really see who Jesus is. The Bible says that this manifestation of God made flesh is the deepest revelation that we have been able to understand and know. (1 John 5:20) We will know the visible image of God that we cannot see, the inaccessible light that was made accessible so that through that revelation we can have access to God and be able to have contact with the invisible God. When Christ is revealed to us, it means that he took away everything that was in the way and really knowing who God is. When we say we are in the true, in his son Jesus Christ, we are talking about the true God and eternal life. We have the revelation and full knowledge that Christ is the visible

image of the God that we cannot see, who only has immortality and who dwells in inaccessible light, whom none of men have seen, nor can see, but he became visible through a manifestation made flesh.

### Better Than Tongues

(1 Corinthians 14:6) *Now, brothers, if I go to you talking in tongues, what will benefit you, if I do not speak to you with revelation, or with science, or with prophecy, or with doctrine?* No matter how striking your ministry is, speaking in tongues does not bring spiritual benefit. It is more relevant, important and powerful to preach the gospel to truly know God. Speaking in tongues does not benefit the congregation because it cannot be understood, but when opening the Bible and speaking of the Word of God, when talking about revelation, of prophecy then listeners can understand. We see that only in the preaching of the gospel of Jesus Christ there are spiritual benefits, spiritual growth, wisdom, knowledge, revelation and prophecy. The prophetic word is more certain than anything else. What good is a thousand words if they don't understand me? However, the Bible brings revelation and knowledge of Jesus Christ. The purpose of all languages is to communicate, not to impress. (Acts 1:8) When tongues were given in the Pentecost, they were all speaking in a well-known language. (1 Corinthians 14:9) *So you too, if by the language you do not give a very understandable word, how will what you say be understood? Because you will speak to the air.* It won't have any effect. All those who were gathered on Pentecost day were there because it was a very striking party and many of the countries that were around went to that Jewish festival to watch the activities. When they began to speak in tongues, they began to understand each other. It was a well-known language; they were not words. If what is spoken is not like the Bible, it does not bring revelation nor does it bring real knowledge of Christ. However, the gospels run the veil so that we can see Christ in the humiliation of his first coming as a servant. Revelations reveals it in its exaltation, in its resplendent glory. He reveals it as the Lord of his church.

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1. Exile: expel and bar (someone) from their native country, typically for political or punitive reasons.
2. Martyr: kill (someone) because of their beliefs
3. Immolate: to offer in sacrifice
4. Pontiff: bishop, high priest.
5. Tarot: playing cards, traditionally a pack of 78 with five suits, used for fortune-telling and (especially in Europe) in certain games.